

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (currently amended) A cap assembly for closing the opening in a neck portion of a container comprising:
 - a cap body having a top wall and a depending annular skirt for screw attachment to said neck portion of said container;
 - a plug seal attachable to an undersurface of said top wall of said cap body; and at least one projecting ring for reducing surface contact between said cap body and said plug seal, said at least one projecting ring being located on an undersurface of said top wall of said cap body for engagement with said plug seal,
 - said plug seal and said cap body being relatively rotatably coupled for independent rotation of said cap body with respect to said plug seal upon attachment and removal of said cap assembly from said neck portion of said container.
2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said plug seal is free to rotate about the longitudinal axis of said cap body.
3. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said cap body includes a central orifice for accommodating said plug seal.
4. (original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein said orifice is stepped to assist in providing snap-fit attachment with said plug seal.

5. (original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein said plug seal includes flanges which are integrally formed with a top surface of said plug seal to assist in providing a snap-fit attachment with said cap body.
6. (original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein said flanges are configured in a discontinuous annular ring for association with said central orifice of said cap body.
7. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said plug seal further includes an annular groove.
8. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 7, wherein said top wall of said cap body further includes at least one depending projection spaced radially from said depending annular skirt of said cap body to be received in said annular groove of said plug seal.
9. (original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein said projection is annular.
10. (original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein said projection is discontinuous.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said projecting ring is integrally formed with said cap body.
13. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said cap body includes two of said projecting rings.
14. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said annular skirt of said cap body includes an inner wall and an outer wall.

15. (original) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said inner wall of said annular skirt includes threads for removably attaching the cap assembly from said neck portion of said container.

16. (original) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said outer wall of said annular skirt is textured.

17. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said inner wall of said annular skirt includes a protruding locking arrangement positioned and formed to hold the cap assembly in a locked ~~open~~-position on said neck portion of said container ~~to while maintaining~~ the container ~~open to~~ in communication with an environment surrounding said container.

18. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said plug seal includes a bottom surface having tabs spaced in an annular arrangement for insertion of a gas-permeable membrane to form a vented cap assembly.

19. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said cap body is formed of a thermoplastic material.

20. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said plug seal is formed of a thermoplastic material.